

RESOLUTION NO. 12-522

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Mrs. Margaret R. (Peggy) Kling, a beloved and devoted civic activist of the Huntsville community, passed away May 27, 2012, three days shy of her 90th birthday. Mrs. Kling, an elegant, graceful lady with a can-do attitude, moved to our community in 1950 and became a voice of hope for the music and art scene significantly influencing the cultural atmosphere in our City of Huntsville; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peggy Kling was born Margaret Anne Rothschild in Chicago, Illinois, and attended Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans, the University of Miami and graduated from Webber College in Florida during World War II. It was in Miami, Florida, in 1946, that she had a blind date with Louisiana-born Coast Guardsman William (Bill) Kling, Sr. After marrying, the couple moved to Greensboro, Alabama, where Bill worked as Office Manager for Greensboro Packing Company and Peggy, who was trained in voice at the Miami Conservatory, sang in the Episcopal church choir in Greensboro; and,

WHEREAS, the Klings moved from Greensboro to Huntsville in 1950. Mr. Kling threw himself into his new business, Valley Pride Packing, and Mrs. Kling threw herself into the city's fledgling arts scene where she was greatly admired for her musical talent. For 45 years, Peggy Kling impacted the cultural environment of the Huntsville/Tennessee Valley area and was a vital part of its growth, development and strength of artistic excellence, especially the Symphony - including continuous contact and membership, financial and promotional support. She was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Civic Orchestra, the forerunner of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. She sang in the Huntsville Community Chorus' first-ever musical, "Trial by Jury," which was the first collaboration between the Chorus and the Symphony. This began a long and happy relationship between the two organizations; and,

WHEREAS, Peggy Kling became a charter member of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild formed in 1960. She maintained her membership continuously, supporting all projects of the Guild, Symphony Ball, Crescendough Auction, Silver Tea, Youth Orchestra and Scholarship Fund through financial contributions and supporting the Guild's involvement with the Arts Council. She gave many hours of personal service and served as President of the Guild from 1971 - 1972. In 1973, she was Chairman of the Symphony Ball which earned the greatest monetary amount (\$13,000) for the Symphony up to that time. She was Chairman of Constitution and By-Laws and Hospitality Chairman for the Guild and served on many Symphony Ball Committees. This was before the Von Braun Civic Center was built and the Ball Committee had to perform magic turning shopping malls into elegant ballrooms; and,

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WHEREAS, she served the Guild in many capacities, always rendering stellar performances. Mrs. Kling was active in representing Huntsville at the American Symphony Orchestra League conferences in the 1970s. She was a member of the Women's Council for several years. Traveling at her own expense, she participated in workshops and round-table discussions on national and regional levels in Boston, Memphis, Chicago, Washington D.C., Columbia, South Carolina, Sarasota and Orlando, Florida. As a Symphony Orchestra Guild hostess, she entertained guests from around the United States for the opening of the Von Braun Civic Center in 1975. She often entertained visiting artists who were appearing with the Symphony. Her desire was to make visiting artists, including legendary opera singer Beverly Sills, feel welcome in the Rocket City. In all of these endeavors, she had the support of her husband, William Kling, Sr., who was for several years President of the Huntsville Symphony Board of Trustees. In their many cultural efforts, they worked together as a team; and,

WHEREAS, Peggy Kling helped create an educational program for elementary schools and assisted in broadcasting via radio to the schools. This was the precursor of the extensive and recognized successful educational programs presented today by the Symphony Orchestra Guild. She influenced her family business to present and underwrite the first ever free concert by the Civic Orchestra, which is now the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. This concert was designed especially for the youth of Madison County, and filled a 900-seat auditorium at Huntsville High School. Hot dogs were served, bicycles were given away and students were excited and talked about the event for weeks; and,

WHEREAS, Peggy was pre-deceased by her husband Bill. Their children are: Dr. Emily Kling of Auburn; Nancy Shinbaum and husband Richard of Montgomery; and Huntsville City Councilman William (Bill) Kling, Jr., and his wife Tanjie. Her grandchildren are Scott William Shinbaum and Lesley Bianca Shinbaum of Montgomery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, acknowledge, salute and express special appreciation for the remarkable career and impact that Mrs. Margaret R. Kling had on our community. Her dedicated service and untiring efforts to better our community have been an astonishing feat. Peggy Kling touched the lives and hearts of many people, young and old who appreciate the Arts. Her legacy will live and be enjoyed by the residents of this area for many generations to come.

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ADOPTED on this the 28th day of June, 2012.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

Approved on this the 28th day of June, 2012.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama